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**REMARKS**

In view of the following discussion, the Applicant submits that none of the claims now pending in the application is anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102 or made obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, the Applicant believes that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

**I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 6-24, 26-37, 40-58, 60-71, 74-77 AND 79 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-24, 26-37, 40-58, 60-71, 74-77 and 79 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated the Ziv-EI patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,302,698, issued October 16, 2001, hereinafter "Ziv-EI"). In response, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74 and 79 from which claims 2-3, 6-17, 20, 22-24, 26-34, 36-37, 40-51, 54, 56-58, 60-68, 70-71 and 75-77 depend, in order to more clearly recite aspects of the invention. Claims 18-19 and 52-53 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Particularly, the Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Ziv-EI fails to disclose or suggest the novel invention of forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts, wherein a response to the query comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity, as claimed in Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74 and 79.

By contrast, Ziv-EI teaches a method in which student responses to queries comprise independent entities. That is, even if the query taught by Ziv-EI could be considered to be a structured entity comprising a plurality of parts, a response as taught by Ziv-EI does indicate any relationship between these parts.

The Applicant's claims clearly recite that a response to a query pertaining to a structured entity comprises at least one completed response template that links a plurality of parts of the structured entity. That is, a response as claimed by the Applicant comprises not just a plurality of aggregated answers to independent questions, but also the relationships between the parts of the structured entity being addressed by the answers. Thus, response templates may be used to "index" different

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parts or relationships of the structured entity. Such a relationship might be, for example, literary foreshadowing and a later direct statement of the previously foreshadowed idea. The portion of Ziv-EI that the Examiner cites as teaching the linking of parts of a structured entity (*i.e.*, column 2, line 40) at most only teaches identifying a correct answer to a question from among a plurality of potential answers. Selection of the correct answer, however, does not involve linking or indicating a relationship between parts of the structured entity to which the question pertains.

Ziv-EI thus fails to disclose or suggest the novel invention of forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts, wherein a response to the query comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity, as claimed in Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74 and 79. Specifically, Applicant's claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74 and 79 positively recite:

1. A method for providing feedback, said method comprising the steps of:
  - a) forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;
  - b) forwarding a plurality of response templates; and
  - c) receiving a response from a first client device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)
21. A method for providing feedback, said method comprising the steps of:
  - a) receiving a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;
  - b) receiving a plurality of response templates; and
  - c) providing a response to an aggregating device from a first client device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)
35. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps comprising of:
  - a) forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;

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b) forwarding a plurality of response templates; and

c) receiving a response from a first client device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)

55. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps comprising of:

a) receiving a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;

b) receiving a plurality of response templates; and

c) providing a response to an aggregating device from a first client device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)

69. An apparatus for providing feedback, said apparatus comprising:  
means for forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts and for forwarding a plurality of response templates; and  
means for receiving a response from a first client device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)

74. An apparatus for providing feedback, said apparatus comprising:  
means for receiving a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts and for receiving a plurality of response templates; and  
means for providing a response to an aggregating device from a first client device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)

79. A system for providing feedback, said system comprising:  
a first client device; and  
an aggregating device for forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts and a plurality of response templates to said first client device, where said aggregating device receives a response from said first client device, wherein said response comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity. (Emphasis added)

Applicant's invention is directed to a method and apparatus for group learning via sequential explanation templates. In typical classroom environments, it is often difficult

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to convey certain types of information, or to gauge students' understanding of certain types of information. Conventional technology-based classroom assessment systems are based upon simple stimulus and response types and are unable to support more powerful assessment techniques such as self-explanation (*i.e.*, wherein a learner deliberately attempts to explain a complex concept in a step-by-step fashion, using sound reasons for each step). This is, in part, because many students require assistance or intervention to engage in self-explanation. In addition, it is time-consuming, from a teacher's perspective, to give each student's individual explanation personal attention.

The present invention provides a method and apparatus for group learning via sequential explanation templates in which a complex query is forwarded (*e.g.*, via a client device) by an instructor to a plurality of students. The complex query pertains to a structured entity having a plurality of structurally interrelated parts (*e.g.*, where a response to one part may be at least partially dependent on a response to another part). Thus, a proper response to the query must address the plurality of structurally interrelated parts and their relationships. In addition, the instruction forwards a plurality of response templates for use by students (*e.g.*, using client devices) in forming responses to the query, where the responses include self-explanation of the process, structure or other complex phenomenon that is the subject of the complex query. To do so, a student selects which response templates to use for each part of his or her response, and how many templates together form the response. Thus, the student may "index" different parts or relationships of the structured entity.

As discussed, Ziv-El fails to disclose or suggest the novel invention of forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts, wherein a response to the query comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity, as claimed in Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74 and 79. Therefore, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74 and 79 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

Dependent claims 2-3, 6-17, 20, 22-24, 26-34, 36-37, 40-51, 54, 56-58, 60-68,

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70-71 and 75-77 depend from claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69 and 74 and recite additional features therefore. As such, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that claims 2-3, 6-17, 20, 22-24, 26-34, 36-37, 40-51, 54, 56-58, 60-68, 70-71 and 75-77 are not anticipated by the teachings of Ziv-El. Therefore, the Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-3, 6-17, 20, 22-24, 26-34, 36-37, 40-51, 54, 56-58, 60-68, 70-71 and 75-77 also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

## **II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4, 5, 25, 38, 39, 59, 72, 73 AND 78 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103**

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 5, 25, 38, 39, 59, 72, 73 and 78 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being made obvious by Ziv-El in view of the Sonnefeld patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,298, issued July 9, 2002, hereinafter "Sonnefeld"). In response, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69 and 74, from which claims 4, 5, 25, 38, 39, 59, 72, 73 and 78 depend, as described above in order to more clearly recite aspects of the invention.

As discussed above, Ziv-El does not teach, show or suggest the novel invention of forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts, wherein a response to the query comprises a completed response template linking a plurality of parts of said structured entity, as claimed in Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69 and 74. Sonnefeld fails to bridge this gap in the teachings of Ziv-El. Therefore, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69 and 74 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder.

Dependent claims 4, 5, 25, 38, 39, 59, 72, 73 and 78 depend from claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69 and 74 and recite additional features therefore. As such, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that claims 4, 5, 25, 38, 39, 59, 72, 73 and 78 are not made obvious by the teachings of Ziv-El in view of Sonnefeld. Therefore, the Applicant submits that dependent claims 4, 5, 25, 38, 39, 59, 72, 73 and 78 also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder.

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**III. CONCLUSION**

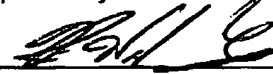
Thus, the Applicant submits that all of the presented claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, the Applicant believes that all of these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

8/14/06  
Date

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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